

**LOCARNINI et al**  
**Serial No. 09/306,420**

D2  
cont

31. (new) A variant according to claim 23 wherein said mutation results in at least one amino acid substitution selected from Ile509Val, Phe512Leu, Val519Leu, Pro523Leu, Leu526Met, Ile533Leu, Met550Val/Ile, Ser559Thr, Arg/Trp499Glu, Thr530Ser.

**REMARKS**

Claim 21 has been amended above to reinsert the phrase present in originally filed in claim 21 but absent, through inadvertent error, in the retyped claim 21 of the Amendment of November 13, 2000. No new matter has been added. The new claims 24 to 31 find support throughout the specification. Claims 1 through 31 are pending.

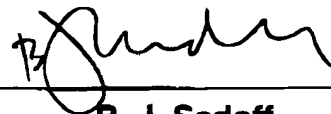
The applicants note the reference to page 24, lines 21 to 22 noted at page 6, line 5 of the Amendment filed November 13, 2000 should have been a reference to page 23, lines 21 to 22. The undersigned regrets any confusion caused by this error.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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**MARKED UP CLAIM**

21. (Thrice Amended) A method according to claim 19 or 20 wherein the assay detects a mutation which results in at least one amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of Ile509Val, Phe512Leu, Val519Leu, Pro523Leu, Leu526Met, Ile533Leu, Met550Val/Ile, Ser559Thr, Arg/Trp499Glu, Thr530Ser.